

Uintah Water Conservancy District

Board of Trustees
Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Approved

Conducting: Chairman Todd Thacker called the May 14, 2019, Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed guests.

Present:

Trustees: Todd Thacker, Quentin Johnson, Greg Witbeck, Herb Snyder, Shane Frost, Dean Baker and Tyson Murray

Others: William Merkley, UWCD General Manager; Mary Searle, UWCD Clerk; John Hunting, UWCD O&M Manager; Dave Rasmussen, UWCD Consultant; Jay Kalafatis, Bureau of Reclamation; Clint Johnson, Jones & DeMille Engineering; Aaron Averett, Sunrise Engineering; Clint Allen, CRS Engineers; Wayne Simper, Central Canal.

Approval of Minutes Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve the April 9, 2019, Annual Meeting minutes.

Steinaker - Safety of Dams Jay Kalafatis reported on the progress of the Steinaker repair. There are two major tasks that need to be accomplished in order to get the elevation up to 5460 by June 1. One is to place adequate cover over the outlet works so heavy machinery can drive over it. The other is to get the gate modifications completed and installed. The coating on the inside will be done this week. The gates are still in California but should arrive next week for installation. The cost of the gates is still not finalized.

With the Feeder Canal at capacity, the dead pool can be filled in five days. Additional filling is limited to 1.5' per day. They still need to leave roads for access. There are about 20 trucks making four trips per day hauling materials.

Vernal Unit Efficiency Project Clint Johnson reported they are working on 30% completion data. Once that is done they can get the economist on. NEPA on the Upper/Highline project is the holdup. They will file a draft EA plan in November. Final completion is set for March 2020. That will give access to funding. The EA has to be done before Highline and Upper Canal can start.

Uinta River Bifurcation We are waiting on access permits, MOU's and ROW's from BIA. The new BIA commission is being finalized. After discussion about going forward and getting gates ordered before the BIA is on board, the board said it would be better to wait for approval from the Business Committee. Until access permits are obtained, contractors will not be able to visit the site to prepare proposals.

Tyzack Pump Plant

There is \$2.73 million in funding available but the cost estimate for work needing completed came to \$3.46 million. After inspection by the Bureau of Reclamation, there are several items that need to be done: We need to put in variable frequency drives and replace gears. The regulating tank needs to be re-conditioned and re-surfaced at a cost of about \$600,000. The spillway has erosion issues from summer rain events that need repaired.. The \$2.73 million could cover the new drives and switch gears and replace toe drains and re-coat outlet pipes. The rest may have to be covered with District funds. The Fall of 2020 is when these repairs are planned. We have old facilities that need maintenance. We need to come up with a list of projects that need done, then prioritize and use that priority list to spend the money.

USU Research Farm

USU is planning to put a lateral water system in and start testing irrigation strategies in Vernal, Cedar City and Logan. They had a funding deficiency of about \$50,000. WaterSmart funding has to go through a government agency. Boyd Kitchen has asked if the District would sponsor this project. Jay Henrie put together a Proposal Application. After some discussion, Greg Witbeck made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Dean Baker and passed unanimously to approve Resolution 2019514 in support of this project.

Flood Control

Clint Allen gave an update on the progress of piping the Rock Point Canal. Everything is hooked up and backfilled. It was pressure-tested Monday. They should be able to deliver water today.

PTIF Resolution

In order to transfer authority to transfer funds in the PTIF accounts, Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve Resolution 20190514PTIF to authorize William Merkley, John Hunting and/or Dean Baker to transfer PTIF funds.

Financial Statements

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve the April financial statements.

Invoices

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously to approve paying Henrie Engineering \$1,825.50; Jones & DeMille \$5,684; PdM \$1,015 and Weldon Construction \$55,501.75 for a total of \$64026.25. GRPP reserve account is to be used to pay the Weldon invoice.

Contractor List

Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Tyson Murray and passed unanimously to approve the following contractor list: BHI, Kinetic Energy Services, PDM Professionals & Consultants, Stearns Construction, Stubbs & Stubbs Oilfield Construction, and George Weldon Construction.

Fleet Management

William Merkley presented the "Fleet Management Program Guidelines" for inclusion in the District's Administrative Code. There was discussion about employee use of company vehicles for personal use and also the IRS requirement

to report commuting as a taxable company benefit. There was also discussion about insurance to cover liability when employees (including board members) are using their personal vehicle on District business. Shane Frost made a MOTION that was SECONDED by Greg Witbeck and passed unanimously to approve the "Fleet Management Program Guidelines" as presented and also to look into the cost of GPS units for all vehicles and cost of insurance to cover District use of personal vehicles.

**Website
Redesign RFP**

William Merkley presented a Website Redesign Request for Proposals. The District website has been hacked and is not usable in its current form.

GRPP Erosion

William Merkley wrote a letter to Josh Horrocks to assist him with his planned construction near the District's easements. William also met with the Green River Steering Committee and visited with legal counsel. On advice from Shawn Draney, the District is going to closely monitor the erosion issue. Sovereign Lands has \$30,000 that could be used to help with this issue.

Manager Report

William reported that Gordon Merkley had fallen off his horse and broken five ribs and his collarbone and had a collapsed lung. Gordon is planning to return to work May 27 with a letter of release from his doctor.

William reported on the SEED training he received last week in Denver. He emphasized the obligation and need the District has to watch for any changes on the dams. He stated that when we start to fill Steinaker after repairs, it will be as if it were "brand new" or a "first fill" condition.

Adjourn

Shane Frost made a MOTION to adjourn which was SECONDED by Quentin Johnson and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.